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APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to the starred question No. 757 asked by Sri N. K. Palanisami at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 11th March 1961, page 122 supra.]

A.—(*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) Madurai.

(*c*) During the year 1958, the Government of Madras enacted the Madras State Bhoodan Yagna Act to facilitate donation, transfer, settlement of Bhoodan lands and development of Gramdan villages. Under the provisions of the Act, a State Board known as the Madras State Bhoodan Yagna Board was constituted and it assumed charge on 1st September 1959 with its headquarters at Madurai.

The State Board has so far met thrice at Madras and has taken over the administration of Gramdan villages and Bhoodan lands. The Special Revenue department staff and Co-operative department staff who were working under the control of the Collector of Madurai, have been transferred to work under the State Board. A Special Officer in the grade of a Deputy Collector is in overall charge of the office. He is assisted by the Deputy Tahsildar in the work relating to the preparation of lists of Bhoodan lands and Gramdan lands donated prior to the commencement of the Madras Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1958, for publication in the Gazette. Some of the powers of the Chairman with regard to administration of the office and notification of lands have been delegated to the Special Officer. The Special Co-operative staff attend to the preliminary work of organisation of Sarvodaya Co-operative Societies and investigation of loan applications of the Gramdan Societies.

A selection Committee constituted by the State Board, has selected five persons to serve as members of the local Committee for Madurai district. The Committee will exercise the powers of the Bhoodan Board delegated to it by the Board. The Special staff are now engaged in gathering particulars of Bhoodan lands and Gramdan villages in Madurai district only. So far 21,008·33 acres have been obtained as Bhoodan and the danapatrams so obtained are being examined and the donors are being contacted for rectifying the defects in the danapatrams. There are 232 Gramdan villages and particulars are being gathered about these Gramdan villages. The special staff has so far gathered particulars in respect of fifty-six Gramdan villages in addition to the eleven Gramdan villages for which societies have been organized. Out of the 56 villages only nine villages satisfy the definition of "Gramdan" under the Madras State Bhoodan Yagna Act.

A Gramdan mela comprising of an exhibition, drama, speeches nd a symposium was conducted at Batlagundu on 12th March 1960. Ten Gramdan Sarvodaya Co-operative Societies were formed for 11 Gramdan villages in Madurai district. The Madura

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District Central Co-operative Bank has been requested by Government to advance from out of its own resources to these ten societies covering the following 11 Gramdan villages indicated below:—

1 Kamakshipuram.

2 V. Perumalkoilpatti.

3 Kottaipatti.

4 Kanavoipatti.

5 Old Batlagundu.

6 A. Perumalkoilpatti.

7 Koniyampatti.

8 Jari Usilampatti.

9 Chinna Chittulotti.

10 Valayapatti.

11 Karichupatti.

There is considerable improvement in the agricultural production. Due to the financial assistance given to the societies, completion of 20 wells, bringing into cultivation, lands which were waste in previous years, installation of five pumpsets, and adoption of improved methods of cultivation, manure and seeds, an additional quantity of 70 tons of foodgrains was produced.

The latest progress report received from the Special Officer, Gramdan, Madurai, shows that 1,264 patrams covering a total extent of 3,047·47 acres have been received from the Tamilnad Sarvodaya Mandal for Coimbatore district. Out of this, 184 patrams contain full particulars regarding the Serial numbers and other details. The remaining patrams do not contain particulars relating to survey of these lands. In Tirunelveli district, 1,421 patrams involving a total extent of 4,629·51 acres have been received. Out of this, 700 patrams contain full particulars regarding the donations. Since the Bhoodan Inspectors have not been appointed, the Special Officer visited the Coimbatore district to take up the work in Dharapuram taluk with the help of the Revenue Department staff. A conference of the Revenue Inspectors, Thasildars (Dharapuram) and some leading pattadars was convened during November 1960 and patrams were distributed to the Revenue Inspectors with suitable instructions for gathering particulars for publication. Particulars have been gathered in Coimbatore district for 400 acres of Bhoodan lands. In respect of Tirunelveli district, particulars were gathered for 38·37 acres.